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Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 017907

LIMDIS

ROME FOR INS

FOL RPEAT STATE 17907 SENT ACTION MOSCOW JAN 27

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 017907

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CVIS, UR, CGEN, PFOR, PINT, SREF
SUBJECT: EMBASSY ASSISTANCE TO SOVIET EMIGRANTS

REF: MOSCOW 1042, MOSCOW 200, MOSCOW 107 AND PREVIOUS

1. AS INSTRUCTED IN PARAGRAPH SEVEN OF STATE 267514, EMBASSY SHOULD DISCONTINUE ISSUANCE OF LETTER TO SOVIET EMIGRANTS WITH EXIT DOCUMENTS FOR THIRD COUNTRIES. NO EXCEPTIONS SHOULD BE MADE, SINCE EXPERIENCE WITH ISSUANCE OF PRO-FORMA VISAS, AS REPORTED IN MOSCOW 200, SUGGESTS THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO HOLD DOWN THE NUMBER OF EXCEPTIONS IN THIS AREA.
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2. EMBASSY SHOULD EXPLAIN REASONS FOR DISCONTINUANCE OF LETTER TO SOVIET EMIGRANTS WHO INQUIRE IN PERSON, AS WELL AS TO THIRD COUNTRY EMBASSIES IN MOSCOW CONCERNED ABOUT ISSUING TRANSIT VISAS, AS OUTLINED IN PARAGRAPHS EIGHT AND NINE OF STATE 267514. EMBASSY SHOULD MAKE CLEAR THAT DISCONTINUANCE OF LETTER DOES NOT SIGNIFY CHANGE IN US POLICY OF ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS IN ROME FOR CONDITIONAL ENTRY (NOT PAROLE) INTO US.

3. IN RESPONSE TO WRITTEN INQUIRIES, EMBASSY SHOULD SAY THAT IT IS NOT ABLE TO ASSIST INDIVIDUAL SOVIET

EMIGRANTS WITH EXIT DOCUMENTS FOR COUNTRIES OTHER THAN US, BUT THE US IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE IN ROME WILL ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FROM SOVIET EMIGRANTS FOR CONDITIONAL ENTRY INTO US, PROVIDING THE APPLICANT IS ADMISSABLE UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT. REPLIES SHOULD NOTE THAT ONLY INS CAN MAKE DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY TO ENTER US, AND THAT INQUIRER IS WELCOME TO VISIT EMBASSY IF HE DESIRES FURTHER INFORMATION.

4. AS STATED IN PARAGRAPH TEN OF STATE 267514, EMBASSY SHOULD NOT ADVISE EMIGRANTS TO APPLY TO INS SPECIFICALLY FOR PAROLE INTO US. INS ROME DISCONTINUED USE OF PAROLE AUTHORITY IN MAY 1974 BECAUSE OF AVAILABILITY OF CONDITIONAL ENTRY IV NUMBERS.

5. APPARENT INCONSISTENCIES ABOUT WHICH EMBASSY ASKED IN MOSCOW 107 STEM FROM FACT INS ROME IS NO LONGER USING PAROLE PROCEDURES AND FROM EXISTENCE OF TWO RECENT PAROLE DECISIONS BY ATTORNEY GENERAL, ONE IN OCTOBER 1971 AND THE OTHER IN JULY 1973.

6. OCTOBER 1971 PAROLE DECISION WAS DESCRIBED IN STATE 11998 OF JANUARY 1972 AND REFERRED TO IN MOSCOW 15821 OF OCTOBER 18, 1974. AS STATED IN PARAGRAPH TWO OF STATE 267514, THIS DECISION EXTENDED ONLY TO ALIENS SEEKING TO LEAVE THE USSR WHO HAD EXIT DOCU-
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MENTS VALID FOR TRAVEL TO US.

7. JULY 1973 DECISION WAS DESCRIBED IN STATE 151380 OF AUGUST 1973 AND REFERRED TO IN MOSCOW 107. THIS DECISION APPLIED TO SOVIET EMIGRANTS OUTSIDE THE USSR WHO HAD RECEIVED SOVIET EXIT DOCUMENTS FOR THIRD COUNTRIES. IT WAS INTENDED TO DEAL PRIMARILY WITH BACKLOG OF SOME 800 SOVIET EMIGRANTS WITH EXIT PER-

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MISSION FOR ISRAEL WHO HAD CONGREGATED IN ROME, ALTHOUGH ITS USE WAS CONTINUED UNTIL MAY 1974. FROM JULY 1973 TO MAY 1974 PAROLE WAS APPLIED TO SOME 2550 SOVIET EMIGRANTS. AS INDICATED ABOVE, IN MAY 1974 INS ROME SWITCHED BACK TO USE OF CONDITIONAL ENTRY PROCESSING BECAUSE OF AVAILABILITY OF CONDITIONAL ENTRY NUMBERS.

8. PROCESSING OF SOVIET EMIGRANTS IN ROME AND ELSEWHERE IS UNDER CONTINUING REVIEW. WE WOULD WELCOME ANY FURTHER EMBASSY COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. INGERSOLL

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